



The
International Fab Lab Association
The public window to the international Fab Lab community.

Newsletter - April 2012

Here is the **April 2012 Newsletter of the International Fab Lab Association**. We will inform you about what is happening in our association and abroad and how you can participate. Feel free to forward it further!

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From the board



From left to right: Alex, Betty, Hiro, Lass, Pieter, Axel, Lindi, Peter

In our board meeting via Skype on April 16th, we focused on expanding the Fab Academy educational content by a new training program on **"How to manage a Fab Lab"**, new developments in **Africa**, and our **web site**; see below for more information. Our next board meeting has been scheduled for May 14th 2012. We will send you our May Newsletter one week later.

FABulous greetings!

Alex, Axel, Betty, Hiro, Lass, Lindi, Peter, Pieter

Picture of the month



CC-AT David Jones

What are you seeing, where on earth is this found and what is its relation with Fab Labs? The answer will be revealed in our next issue.



The picture in the March 2012 issue of our Newsletter showed a prestigious FAB building in Atlanta GA, USA. Unfortunately, not a Fab Lab, but a French American Brasserie, apparently a popular spot on St. Patrick's Day.

How to manage a Fab Lab

Many members of the Fab Lab community have asked for training in setting-up and running a Fab Lab, not just from a technical perspective, but from a management and sustainability perspective. Fab Academy currently features a semester-long, 20-module diploma course packed with technical topics and skill building. This Fall, in response to requests, we plan to pilot a program in "How to manage a Fab Lab".

A workgroup chaired by Klaas Hernamdt (klaas@fabfolk.com), supported by the International Fab Lab Association working with staff and members of the Fab Academy is designing a complementary training program to handle the demand for Fab Lab set-up and management skills. A separate "Preview" document gives you a preview of the pilot managerial training program and asks for your feedback. Based on your feedback, the workgroup will complete its design efforts including a budget and price range. The workgroup intends to start this pilot program in September 2012.

Please, see the separate document titled "Preview: Expanding Fab Academy educational content: "How to manage a Fab Lab" and fill the short questionnaire!

Africa in the picture

The Fab Lab community is growing well in Africa. South Africa today counts seven active Fab Labs, almost all with at least the first three A's in our quadruple rating system. A new one is planned in the Science Park South Africa (The Innovation Hub). Further there are two Fab Labs in Kenya and one in Ghana already. There are Fab Labs under development in Namibia, Benin and Burkina Faso and a new one is being planned for Mali.

As the demand for new Fab Labs in Africa is growing Lindi Mophuti and the Namibian Fab Lab team have set-up the FAN-Alliance, i.e. the Fab Lab African Network Alliance. They are going to assist African countries with anything related to Fab Labs and instill the knowledge sharing amongst the African Communities.

The organizers of the "eLearning Africa" conference in Benin (23-25 May 2012), have planned a session with the surprising title "Do Fab Labs and Tablets Feature as the Next Generation in African eLearning?". Anyway, Lindi Mophuti and Pieter van der Hijden will prepare a 15 minutes introduction on Fab Labs, called: "Fab Lab: Shifting eLearning from Bits to Atoms". If other Fab Labs are attending the conference, please let us know. We then may schedule some extra meetings.

Fab * Manchester coming soon

Fab * Manchester, 17-19 May, is open for registration here: <http://fabstar.org/manchester2012/registration/>. Experience af packed programme of arts and fabbing, covering such diverse subjects as "Open Source Nation" and "Open Design Definition", learn how to create gadgets from Open Data, create Modular Art or learn from European Case Studies about the diverse FabLab practice, this time from Vienna, Utrecht and Helsinki, and the range of FabLab technology, from the MiniFabLab to the Russian Fab Toy Technopark proposal and Autodesk's new 123D tools -- or

simply help to assemble an Ultimaker for FabLab Greece (details on the programme at <http://fabstar.org/manchester2012/>)

To get a discount on the conference on Friday 18 May, use this code: Fablab2012 (when asked to buy a ticket from FutureEverything). Bursaries are available, please contacting trox@fabfolk.com.

Web site member pages

We finally will start filling the member pages on our web site. Within a few days you receive account details that give you access to the following content:

- our year program
- our backstage with information on ongoing work to review the Fab charter etc., the common set of machines, the design of Fab Academy 2, and working on Organizational Health and Safety
- our archive with the minutes of our annual general members meeting and monthly board meetings
- our preparations for Fab8 and the next general members meeting

Reading and watching

Economist - special report



Picture by Brett Ryder (*Economist*, 21 April 2012)

The Economist published a special report on manufacturing and innovation. "As manufacturing goes digital, it will change out of all recognition and some of the business of making things will return to rich countries." The report counts nine articles covering: A third industrial revolution, Factories and jobs: Back to making stuff, Comparative advantage: The boomerang effect, Materials: Forging ahead, Additive manufacturing: Solid print, Additive manufacturing: Layer by layer, Collaborative manufacturing: All together now, Automation: Making the future. See the Economist print edition (21 April 2012) and/or its website at <http://www.economist.com>; up to 5 articles may be read weekly without charge.

Bloom's taxonomy 2.0



Picture by Samantha Penney (see text)

In 1956, B. S. Bloom developed a taxonomy of thinking levels in learning processes. In the nineties, it was updated a little bit and this revised model is still often used. Recently, Samantha Penney, Director of Distance Education at Indiana State University, collected about 50 popular webtools and categorised them following Bloom's revised taxonomy of remembering, understanding, applying, analyzing, evaluating and creating. The picture above shows her results. Clicking on it, brings you to <http://www.usi.edu/distance/bdt.htm>. There you find the same picture in its full size and interactive. All tools are clickable!

Upcoming events

For the latest information, check our website at <http://www.fablabinternational.org/newsroom--2/upcoming-events>.

2012

- 27-29 April 2012: Washington DC, USA: USA Science and Engineering Festival; <http://www.fablabdc.org>; fab@fablabdc.org.
- 2-4 May 2012: Berlin, Germany: Re:Publica conference; various speakers on Fab Lab topics; <http://re-publica.de/>
- 5 May 2012: Washington DC, USA: Rita Shewbridge, New media artist and designer; <http://www.fablabdc.org>; fab@fablabdc.org.
- 17-19 May 2012: Manchester, UK: FAB-✱ Manchester, European Fab Summit at Future Everything Festival; <http://fabstar.org/manchester2012/>; <http://futureeverything.org/festival/>; limited reduction options for Fab Lab community, see special paragraph above
- 23-25 May 2012: Cotonou, Benin: E-learning Africa; <http://www.elearning-africa.com/>; a.o. presentation on Fab Labs; pvdh@sofos.nl
- 15-17 June 2012: Bremen, Germany: FAB-✱ Education; conference; <http://fab-education-bremen.blogspot.com/>
- 15-25 June 2012: Bremen, Germany: FAB-✱ Education; exhibition with workshops; <http://fab-education-bremen.blogspot.com/>
- 18-24 June 2012: Various locations: Boot camp on Fab Lab management and installation; coordination@fabacademy.org
- 8-11 August 2012: Amersfoort, The Netherlands: international Grassroots Fab Lab event; <http://www.fabfuse.org>; info@fabfuse.org
- **22-28 August 2012: FAB8 International Conference; Wellington, New Zealand; Massey University, the Institute of Design for Industry and Environment at the College of Creative Arts; <http://www.fab8nz.com>; Chris Jackson fab8nz@gmail.com.**
- 17-22 September 2012: Helsinki, Finland: OpenKnowledge Festival; special stream on making; <http://okfestival.org/call-for-proposals/>

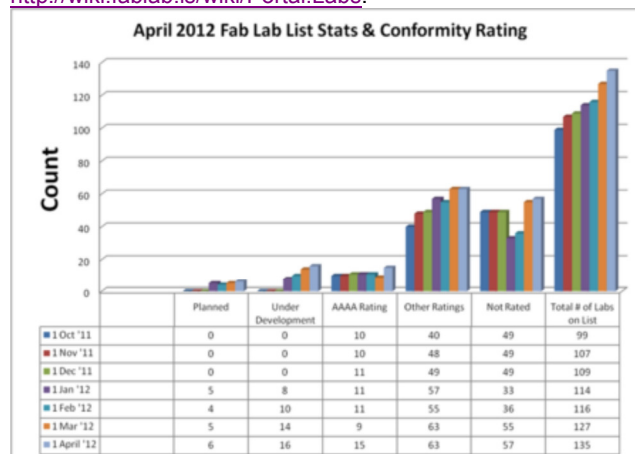
2013

- **August 2013: FAB9 International Conference; Kamakura, Japan; <http://fablabjapan.org>; 田中浩也 (Hiroya Tanaka) htanaka@sfc.keio.ac.jp**
- 7-10 December 2013: International conference on ICT and Development; Cape Town, South Africa; <http://ictd2012.org>

Statistics

Our association has 123 members (individual persons). If you know people interested in becoming a member, let them fill in the form you find on <http://fablabinternational.org/fab-association/how-to-join>.

There are now 135 Fab Labs. Please, check your ratings at <http://wiki.fablab.is/wiki/Portal:Labs!>



Contact: *Lindi Mophuti.*


Colophon

This Newsletter is sent to you on behalf of the Board of the International Fab Lab Association. Our central email address is board@fablabinternational.org; the address of our preliminary web site is <http://www.fablabinternational.org>.

Of course, you also can contact our board members directly:

- Chairperson, Pieter van der Hijden (pvdh@sofos.nl),
- External and Internal Relations, Axel Sylvester, Hiroya Tanaka (axel_association@fablab-hamburg.org, htanaka@sfc.keio.ac.jp),
- Innovation (new products and services), Alex Schaub (alex@waag.org),
- Liaison CBA and FABn, Sherry Lassiter (sherry.lassiter@cba.mit.edu),
- Registrar (Fab Charter, Rite-de-passage, List), Lindi Mophuti, lindi.mphuthi@gmail.com,
- Secretary, Peter Troxler (trox@fabfolk.com),
- Treasurer, Betty Barrett (bb1@illinois.edu).

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